

# LSR

Saturday, July 8, 2000

## HIGHLIGHTS

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Today's Weather Outlook

High: 97  
Low: 75  
Partly Cloudy

## UP CLOSE:

### Exhibitions of Fun and Endurance

"Brutal," was a common description of the "Slalom Super G" course by the 11 athletes who competed in the first-time exhibition Thursday. The event is the brainchild of head slalom official, Jim Hayes. Top winners in the earlier slalom competitions were pitted against each other in a treacherous course of steep ramps, sharp turns, and uncertain obstacles.

Competitors in classes II through V, with top speeds in regular slalom, were given the chance to compete on the one death-defying Super G course— regardless of class, division or gender. The large group of spectators cheered wildly as each veteran completed the course. Winners of this new exhibition were Jody Shiflett, #19 of Virginia Beach, who finished with an amazing speed of 3 minutes, 7 seconds. He was followed by Laura Schwanger, #373, of Williamstown, NJ, whose results were 3 minutes, 32 seconds. Judging from the enthusiasm of both the crowd and the competitors, there may be good reason to hold this popular exhibition again!

More than 100 motorized wheelchair users registered to compete in the Power Chair 220 Race at NorthsideTrack, Friday. First offered as a 100-yard dash during the 2nd NVWG, Tom Brown, National Event Director, decided to bring it back as a way of opening up track, and an additional event, to power chair users. Competing for 220 meters in two divisions — hand control and mouth control, a great deal of each athlete's success depends, of course, on their wheelchair.

According to Brown, "that's no different from regular wheelchair racing, where a lot depends on the kind of chairs used there, too." Some motorized wheelchairs can run up to 11 miles an hour. A number of the competitors went all out, souping up and even decorating their chairs for the exhibition event.

For Judy Ross, Osseo, Mich., "This is something new, and I wanted to try it. Every day you need a new challenge, so I said, 'let's go for it!'"

Gary McDermott, of Clinton, Iowa, said he also wanted to try it because it's something new.

Ken Huber, Milan, Mich., came in first in his heat. He hoped the race may become a new event at the Games for quadriplegic athletes, and be something he could "gear up to compete in again." Look for this one again either as an exhibition or possibly a new medal event.

### Follow your dream

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games, for many athletes, is just the beginning. There is always an opportunity to strive beyond your wildest dreams and compete at the world-class level. The Paralympics offer that dream to many who compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Pat Sapp, a Vietnam-era veteran is living proof that dreams can come true. According to Sapp, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games provide the foundation for wheelchair sports, and

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## Wheelchair Repair

The main repair station will be located at the **Marriott Rivercenter Hotel**. There will be a secondary repair station located at the **Convention Center**. Invacare technicians will be at each of the events, handling minor repairs on the spot. Unfortunately, we will not have repair stations or technicians at all of the hotels.



To receive bathroom safety items, or durable medical equipment (DME), go to conference room 13 or 14 at the Marriott Rivercenter for pick-up. Hours are 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

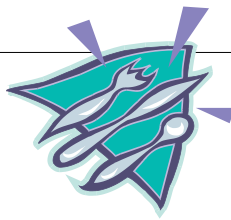
The phone number in conference room 13 is 554-6102, or 669-9924.

**Please return your DME to conference room 13 when you check out of your room.**

### Banquet Tickets

Banquet tickets are still available. The cost is \$10 for coaches, \$20 for everyone else.

*The Memorabilia Committee is selling National Veterans Wheelchair Games polo shirts for \$17, T-shirts for \$5 (up to XL, \$8 for XXL), and baseball caps for \$7 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center until they sell out. July 8 selling hours are: Convention Center, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.; 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Last chance to get shirts is at the Banquet!*



## Today's Menu

**Breakfast (will be served from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Marriott and Westin):**

Assorted Chilled Juices  
Fresh Sliced Fruit  
Pastries, Muffins, Bagels  
Chef's Breakfast Taco Station  
Coffee, Tea, Milk

### Lunch:

Mixed Field Greens with Peppercorn Ranch Dressing  
King Ranch Chicken  
Broccoli & Julienne Carrots  
Homemade Corn Bread with Butter and Honey  
Fresh Baked Cobblers  
Iced Tea

LOST and FOUND is now located in the Command Center, Room 211, Convention Center, 2nd Fl. Items may be turned in or claimed from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Staffers are reporting lost items from flip flops to opera binoculars to hotel room keys.

LOST: 110 Camera with valuable pictures. If found, call Steven Sousa at the Marriott Rivercenter.

## Cell phone turn in:

Please turn your cell phones in to the Command Center, Rm. 211, Convention Center, at the following times: **Sat. July 8 until 7:00 p.m.; Sun. July 9, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

If you have a special need that requires you to turn in your equipment at a later time, contact **Marshall Mayes** at **669-8453** or by radio on **private 8453**. Please have all equipment (radio/phone, carrier, battery charger and extra batteries, if issued) with you.

## Feeling hot, hot, hot?

\* Wear loose, light-colored, cotton clothing and a cap or wide brimmed hat

\* Protect your skin with plenty of sunscreen lotion SPF 20 or more

\* Use sunglasses to reduce glare or protect your eyes and apply lip balm often and generously

\* Use a spray bottle or wet towel to cool yourself down or take a "siesta" inside for awhile

\* Drink plenty of fluids on a frequent basis. If you feel thirsty, you are already one quart of fluid behind your normal requirements. Most of your liquid intake should be water

\* Avoid alcoholic beverages and minimize coffee and tea intake which can act as a diuretic to make you more dehydrated.

Medical Aid Stations are located at:

**Rivercenter Marriott, room 3530**  
6a - 10p, Mon.-Fri.; 6a - 12p, Sat.  
**Conv. Center, Event Ballroom**  
8a - 10p, Tues. - Fri.; 11a - 4p, Sat.  
**Northside Stadium (under bleachers)**  
8a - 10p, Thurs. - Fri.; 8a - 1p, Sat.

### Medical staff include:

Dr. Bob O'Hara, Chicago  
Dr. Leigh Anderson, Denver  
Dr. Donna Blake, Denver  
Dr. Ken Lee, Milwaukee  
Dr. Dan Scott, Denver  
Dr. Karen Wolflein, Denver  
PA-C Vera Arnold, Chicago  
PA-C Janice Feincher, San Diego



VISN 17 Medical Assistance Team volunteers are wearing mauve T-shirts with a white cross on the back and are carrying black backpacks or orange kits.

## 2001: A Bronx Odyssey Gearing up for the 21st National Veterans Wheelchair Games in The Big Apple

*by Alfred Hong, Public Affairs Officer, Bronx VAMC*

To the casual visitor, New York and the Bronx — home of salsa music and hip-hop, where Latin, Vietnamese, Jewish and West African cuisine all can be found on the same block, the place may indeed seem a bit bizarre. But in New York City, the opportunity to buy pizza at 3 am, watch a Broadway play any day of the week, or partake in a shop-a-holic's paradise, is just everyday life.

Bronx VAMC staff are warning the athletes early to “Get ready for the veterans wheelchair sports affair to remember — in the ‘City that never sleeps,’ the capital of the world, ‘the Big Apple,’ — New York City and the Bronx, home of the 21st National Veterans Wheelchair Games.”

“All of our athletes are excited at the prospect of competing in New York City for the first time. Many have never been there and would, of course, like to bring their families as well,” said Homer Townsend, President of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) which co-sponsors the Games each year with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Local competitors are also looking forward to next year's event. “I've competed in the last four different cities, Seattle, San Diego, Pittsburgh, and San Juan,” said Carlos Moore, a gold and silver medallist in quad weightlifting and manual slalom, respectively. “But I'm really looking forward to competing in front of my family and friends right at home. I also want my fellow veteran competitors (who are more like family) to visit the Bronx VA and the SCI Center there, which is really world class.”

“We're happy to have the Bronx VA take the lead for the NY/NJ Veterans Healthcare Network (VISN 3), in hosting the Games in New York,” said James J. Farsetta, VA Network Director.

“The athletes will get a glimpse of what America's communities will look like in the future,” said Maryann Musumeci, Director of the Bronx VAMC, who will receive the symbolic torch at the closing banquet on Saturday as it is passed on from representatives of the VA Heart of Network, this year's hosts in San Antonio. “Our newest immigrants gravitate to the big cities, and New York continues to be a magnet and the center of opportunity for many. It's a cosmopolitan experience like no other, and should

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## Dream

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afford the athletes the opportunity to qualify and compete in the world-class Paralympics. Sapp, who will be competing on the U.S. Hockey Team in the 2002 Paralympics, credits VA with “growing in leaps and bounds in teaching health care and preventative maintenance,” to veterans learning to live in a wheelchair.

Some NVWG participants have realized the dream of competing at the Paralympics, and still continue to compete at the Games each year. Athletes such as Kater Cornwell are role models for those novices aspiring to win medals and strive for competing for the USA at the international level. Cornwell describes his evolution to the next level as a “bird in a nest (the NWCG), being nourished and encouraged to build himself into the world-class athlete he is today.”

Laura Schwanger has realized her dream of competing and setting the world record at the Paralympics (1988, 1992 & 1996). Laura competes at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games not only for herself, but to “encourage others and show them that if they put your mind to it, they can do anything.”

Selected as an alternate for the basketball team in the 2002 Paralympics, Karen Wake credits the National Veterans Wheelchair Games with helping her at a low point in her life. The National Wheelchair Games have “given me the mind-set, which has helped me more than anything.”

So, yes! There is life after the Games. We salute those athletes who may be realizing their dream and continue on to the Paralympics, and to those who are serving as their role models, coaches and mentors.



# Did You Know?



Miss America 2000, **Heather French**, will be here today to greet veterans. French, the daughter of a disabled Vietnam veteran will also speak at the closing banquet. Get your cameras ready!



More than 1,587 volunteers registered from across the United States — including Alaska and as far away as Italy — to provide support for the Games. Additionally, dozens more just dropped in to see how they could help.



Athlete Paul J. Regan, Clarence, N.Y., was super proud of his daughter Jaquelin Rohe, who was a first-time volunteer with the UPS contingent.



Former UPS vice president and sponsor Siro DeGasperis brought 13 members of his family to volunteer at this year's Games.



Registered Nurse Barbara Garcia, San Antonio VAMC, came upon a man in distress, who had collapsed in the Rivercenter Mall area. Garcia provided CPR and medical assistance until emergency medical technicians arrived.



**Hospitality Booth Door Prize Drawing**

Dennis Thomas is the lucky winner of a Candle Set

## 20TH NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### SATURDAY, JULY 8

6:00 AM - 9:00 AM  
8:00 AM

9:00 AM

10:00 AM  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
1:00 PM  
3:00 PM

7:00 PM

#### BREAKFAST

ARCHERY  
SOFTBALL  
HAND CYCLING  
5K ROAD RACE  
MOTOR RALLY  
SOFTBALL FINALS

#### LUNCH

QUAD RUGBY FINALS  
BASKETBALL FINALS

#### CLOSING BANQUET

MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER/WESTIN  
NORTHSIDE ISD  
NORTHSIDE ISD  
FT. SAM HOUSTON  
FT. SAM HOUSTON  
HEMISFAIR PARK  
NORTHSIDE ISD

CONVENTION CENTER  
CONVENTION CENTER  
CONVENTION CENTER

MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER

### TRANSPORTATION

#### SATURDAY, JULY 8

6:30 AM - 12:30 PM

ARCHERY/SOFTBALL SHUTTLE

CONV CTR/NISD/CONV CTR

6:30 AM - 12:30 PM

5K/HAND CYCLE SHUTTLE

CONV CTR/FT. SAM

#### SUNDAY, JULY 9

6:00 AM - 4:00 PM

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

CONV CTR/AIRPORT/CONV CTR

### ...A Bronx Odyssey

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be lots of fun for the athletes and their families.”

Angelo Bianco of New City, NY and President of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA) is very much enthused about the Games. “We’re going to do everything we can to ensure that the Games are a huge success in New York in 2001. These Games are all about showcasing abilities.”

The Marriott Marquis Hotel, in the heart of the recently refurbished Times Square and Broadway Theatre district, will house most of the athletes and will also serve as the command center and expo area. New York City’s Metropolitan Transit Authority will provide the wheelchair-accessible buses for the events and some of New York City’s incomparable parks will serve as venues for events like the 5K race and motorized rally. New York State’s majestic Riverbank State Park is also a key venue for other track and field competitions.

The Games will run July 1-5, 2001, and may include viewing spectacular fireworks displays from one of Gen. George Washington’s strategic vantage points during the Revolutionary War — or, a bird’s eye view of lab facilities where Dr. Rosalind Yalow won the Nobel Prize for Radio-immunoassay at the Bronx VAMC — or, even a relaxing romp to “the House that Ruth built,” where the New York Yankees reign supreme in the baseball world. All in all, next year promises to be a wonderful and unforgettable experience. Be there!



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